

**APSU Writing Center**

Clauses, Sentence Components, and Sentence Types

**Independent Clause**

- Can stand alone as a sentence.
- Contains a subject, a verb, and expresses a complete thought.
  - **Example:** The researcher conducted an experiment.
  - **Example:** She submitted her final draft.

**Dependent Clause**

- Cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.
- Must be attached to an independent clause.
- Often begins with a subordinating conjunction (although, because, when, etc.).
  - **Example:** **Although the researcher conducted an experiment**, she needed more data.
  - **Example:** **Because she submitted her final draft**, the professor was able to review it.

**Sentence Components**

**1. Subject**

- The person, place, thing, or concept performing the action.
- Identify the subject by asking, "Who or what?"
  - **Example:** **The professor** graded the essays.
  - **Example:** **My classmate** shared her notes.

**2. Verb**

- Expresses action or a state of being.
- Identify the verb by asking: "What happened?"
  - **Example:** The professor **graded** the essays.
  - **Example:** The discussion **was** insightful.
    - ("was" is a linking verb.)

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**3. Object**

- Receives the action in a sentence.
- Identify by asking: “The subject did what?” or “To whom?/For whom?”
  - **Example:** The student wrote **a research paper**.
  - **Example:** The editor revised **the manuscript**.

**4. Prepositional Phrase**

- Begins with a preposition (in, at, for, behind, until, after, etc.) and modifies a word in the sentence.
  - **Example:** The student wrote a research paper **for the journal submission**.
  - **Example:** The editor revised the manuscript **before publication**.

**Sentence Structure**

A complete sentence:

- Begins with a capital letter.
- Ends with punctuation (period, question mark, or exclamation point).
- Contains at least one subject.
- Contains a verb or verb phrase.
- Usually follows Subject + Verb + Object order.
- Expresses a complete thought (independent clause).
  - **Example:** The group finalized their presentation.

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Sentence Types

**Simple Sentence**

- Contains one independent clause.
- Expresses a complete thought.
  - **Example:** She reviewed her notes.
  - **Example:** He drafted a proposal.
  - **Example:** They discussed the hypothesis.

**Compound Sentence**

- Contains at least two independent clauses, joined by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) or a semicolon.
  - **Example:** The professor gave an assignment, and the students completed it.
  - **Example:** The editor revised the article, but the author requested additional changes.

**Complex Sentence**

- Contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.
  - **Example:** Although the student studied extensively, he was still nervous for the exam.
  - **Example:** They cited multiple sources as they wanted to strengthen their argument.

**Compound-Complex Sentence**

- Contains at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.
  - **Example:** Although he submitted his essay, he forgot his citation, so he had to revise it.
  - **Example:** They discussed the results, and they decided to include additional references because they wanted to support their claims.



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### References

University of Nevada, Reno Writing & Speaking Center. (2023). *Sentence types*. University of Nevada, Reno. <https://www.unr.edu/writing-speaking-center/writing-speaking-resources/sentence-types>

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